

What does Public Health Seattle-King County do for you?

- tracks and monitors diseases like West Nile Virus and tuberculosis,
- creates and promotes anti-smoking education campaigns,
- prepares for emergencies such as earthquakes and Pandemic Flu,
- controls the spread of rats in our neighborhoods,
- collects and provides disease prevalence data to doctors and nurses, and sends alerts of disease outbreaks.
- cleans up meth labs,
- works with businesses to ensure foods like E. coli-tainted spinach are removed from grocery stores and restaurants,
- conducts autopsies for criminal investigations,
- runs jail health services for all inmates entering the King County jail,
- partners with businesses and community groups to promote healthy eating and exercise, and
- ensures that our drinking water is safe.

For more information about Public Health Seattle-King County, please call: 206.296.4600 or visit their website: http://www.metrokc.gov/health/ PRSRT STD US Postage **PAID** Seattle, WA Permit No. 1788



Bob FERGUSON

Look inside for an update on Public Health

From Councilmembers

December 2006

Metropolitan **King County Council Public Health Update**

JULIA PATTERSON & BOB FERGUSON

Dear Neighbor,

Over the course of the last year, we have taken a close look at improving Public Health Seattle-King County. Our county faces a growing uninsured population, threats of a pandemic flu, and more people who have chronic diseases like diabetes, heart disease and obesity. We must set priorities in order to keep people healthy.

This newsletter provides information about the services Public Health currently provides, why our public health centers were threatened to be closed, and the health challenges facing King County residents.

Please contact us if you have questions about Public Health or any other King County matter. It is a privilege and honor to serve you.

Chair, Board of Health 206-296-1005 julia.patterson@metrokc.gov Bob Ferguson Bob Ferguson

Member, Board of Health 206-296-1001 bob.ferguson@metrokc.gov

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PATTERSON & FERGUSON WORKING HARD TO KEEP US SAFE AND HEALTHY

Services our Public Health Centers Provide:

Adult and Child Immunizations

Dental Services

Family Planning/Pregnancy Testing

HIV Screening

School Inspections

Home Visits for New Mothers

Tuberculosis Testing

Family Social Workers

Family Primary Care

Women, Infants and Children
 (WIC) Program

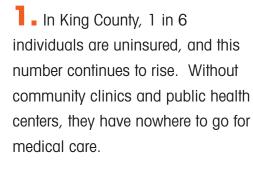
Interpreters

Public Health Centers will stay open

In August, the Public Health Department recommended the closure of two Public Health Centers to balance their budget. After hearing that the North Center and the Northshore Center, both in Councilmember Ferguson's district, would close at the end of 2006, we quickly took action.

The King County Executive proposed the County Council approve funding to keep the centers open through June of 2007. We went one step further and, in the council's budget, ensured that both health centers will remain open for all of 2007.

Next year, however, we have more work to do. We will appoint a group of experts, community members, and center employees to work with us on how we can guarantee the uninsured and underinsured have access to health care services. We look forward to their recommendations, and remain committed to making sure we do not let the people lose their 'medical home'.

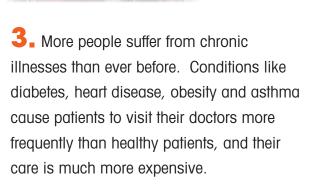


Why the Public Health Centers are Struggling





2. Cost of care is becoming more expensive, while Medicaid and private insurance are falling behind in reimbursing doctors for the care they provide.





"Health care is vital to all of us some of the time, but public health is vital to all of us all of the time."

C. Everett Koop